Broomsquire's Handbook of Do-It-Yourself Broomcare

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Handbook of Do-It-Yourself Broom Care

by
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Obscurus Books, LTD

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Introduction

Okay, so you have your new shiny broom! And I'm sure you can't wait to 'test-drive' it and ride it to the moon. Your broomstick is now your means of transportation, and also your tool to play Quidditch. But a broomstick is not just an inanimate object (even if it might seem like it)!

As something imbued with magic, it could totally refuse to work properly if you don't take proper care of it. Just like how a broken wand can sprout fireworks when you want it to use for transfiguration, an abandoned and abused broomstick may lead you to a terrible fate if you attempt to fly it without ever caring for it.

Take some time to trim the twigs or polish the handle. After all, every little bit of problem may affect your speed and flying accuracy. Plus, who would be ashamed if your broom looks like it has seen better days? Your friends certainly won't be amazed by your Firebolt a month after you bought it if you've never taken care of it! I doubt it would be comfortable to sit on as well. This book is here to teach you all about how to care for your broomstick properly.

And don't worry; it's not hard at all! It's titled do-it-yourself, because the techniques described here are meant to be easy to follow and doable for everyone without having to need certain complicated skills. The point is, if you're old enough

to ride a broom, you should be old enough to take care of it yourself. When you buy a broom, you should be responsible of its well-being! Of course it might not be as demanding as a pet, but I do believe brooms have some sort of feelings too. I'm sure if you care for it well, it will happily fly better and make yourself proud. So what else are you waiting for? Turn to the Chapter 1 and see the first step of do-it-yourself broom care!

In addition to this book, you will find the following inside your Broomstick Servicing Kit:

Fleetwood's High-Finish Handle Polish

This is a high-quality polish for use in broom care. As mentioned in Chapter 2, polishing the handle of your broomstick will allow the broomstick to sustain for longer periods of time. If you are using wax on your broomstick as mentioned in Chapter 4, be sure to polish and let dry *before* using wax. If you need to touch up your polish, be sure to wipe the wax off your broomstick completely and then add this polish. Fleetwood's Polish will give your broomstick that brand-new just from the shop look but still maintaining that great "broken-in" feeling.

Tail-Twig Clippers

These also have a relatively simple usage. They are used for cutting off any loose or bent twigs on the end of your

broomstick. Use these sparingly and do not try to groom the twigs on your broomstick. While you may want to customize the look of your bristles and twigs, this is not advised because the flying patterns of your broom can significantly change. Instead, only clip those twigs that have gone seriously awry. Take care to check frequently and clip sparingly. If you clip too many, soon your broom will not have a full bristle and twig bottom, which will need repair sooner than later.

Clip-on Compass

Most good quality broom care kits include some type of compass. The one included here is one of the best on the market today. Made of brass, this tiny compass is for long journeys. We recommend reinforcing the compass with a sticky charm for extra-long journeys because there have been cases where a witch or wizard has broken their clip or dropped the compass. However, in most cases, the clip mechanism works stupendously for long journeys. Make sure to use it while drifting above the clouds, in severe weather, or in the fog. However, please note, we do not recommend flying in very severe circumstances; this is only for when weather comes suddenly.

If you should be missing any of these items in your kit, please send an owl to the manufacturer so we may remedy our oversight.

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Chapter 1: Clipping and Trimming

It is important to clip and trim your broomstick at least once a week. There is a proper method in which to clip and trim your broom, and is as follows.

1. Set broom to hover height at waist level
2. Standing with the tail to your left, grip the base of the handle tightly with your left hand
3. Slowly, glide your right hand over the top and bottom of the handle to feel for abnormalities
4. Visually inspect the handle and tail

Once you have examined the broomstick and defined all problems you may begin the repair process. Broomstick may be placed on a floor or table for this process, choose your comfort area.

With the Tail-Twig Clippers begin the process of removing splinters from the broom. It is imperative that the Tail-Twig Clippers be used as they have been charmed specifically from broomstick care. Any other clippers can cause severe, if not deadly, damage to the broom.

Chapter 2: Broomstick Polishing

Broomstick polishing is recommended after every use, to keep the broomstick in top condition and form. When polishing, use Fleetwood's High-Finish Handle Polish for best results. It is also recommended to protect the brooms enchantments.

There are knock off versions available in Knockturn Alley, but you'll quickly notice that they are not as effective as they claim. The some will lead to pin sized holes and the others seems to make brooms ooze sap. Both can lead to expensive dilemmas you'll want to avoid.

Before polishing, hands and work area should be clear so as to not contaminate the polish. When applying the polish, a modest amount is all that is needed. By moderate, it means that a small dollop should be sufficient.

Polish the handle until it reflects a generous shine. DO NOT get polish on the tail of the broom. If it does, the tail will have to be professionally stripped. A stripping is not as terrible as it sounds, but is time consuming. Expect to lose possession of your broom for a minimum of three weeks.

Chapter 3: Tail Maintenance

The bristles of the broom are important to maintain, as they can be the leading cause of drag on one's broom. While daily maintenance is not required, wiping down the bristles every week for the commuter, and every hard practice or game for the Quidditch player is recommended.

Simply use a large cloth with soapy water and wipe the bristles with limited force from the FRONT TO THE BACK. This is key, as going from back to front will likely dislodge or crack bristles.

It is strongly recommended not to use spells on your broom's bristles for cleaning or other maintenance as it is extremely difficult to aim a spell at specific bristles.

Missing bristles are, so long as they aren't in great amounts, not a huge issue. It is possible to glue in replacements, but bristle loss will come with all brooms as they are used and they age. If anything, bristle loss can be considered a gauge of when to purchase a replacement broom. Of course, like with most anything, high quality brooms that are well taken care of will keep their bristles much longer than a cheaper, abused broom.

Maligned bristles can be frustrating: the bristle seems to be in great shape, but for some reason the base attachment is causing it to skew. There are a few remedies for this, although none of them ideal. The first option, recommended for only a very small number of bristles, is to anchor the piece to another piece, with a glue or similar adhesive. The danger of this is, if done incorrectly, or with too much adhesive, or to too many bristles, it will affect the balance and flight quality of your room. The second option is to remove the bristle altogether. Again, this isn't an ideal choice, but using it infrequently will not harm the balance or flight quality, nor will it hinder the look of the broom.

Lastly, broken or cracked bristles are generally lost causes. Most bristles get cracked or broken due to a lack and care, so the best way to fix broken or cracked bristles is to avoid them to begin with - always care for your broom! If you find you have damaged bristles, you'll need to see a professional.

Chapter 4: Refining Hover Height

As time goes on, every broomstick owner finds that the hover height of his or her broom has shifted. Eventually, the height will be so far off its mark that it will need adjusting.

To adjust the hover height of your broom, allow the broom to hover at its current height directly in front of you. With the tip of your wand touch the handle of the broomstick and say one of the following incantations:

1. ***Hovertius Louas*** say if broomstick is higher than desired.
2. ***Hovertius Rasius*** say if broomstick is lower than desired.

Repeat the same incantation with the tail of the broom, depending upon its hover height. The incantations may need to be repeated several times before the desired height is reached. Do not worry about the repetition; the broomstick will not be affected by it.

Chapter 5: Charms

Personal accounts of the first broomstick rides mention "splinter-filled buttocks" and slow speeds. Thankfully, modern broomsticks have a few charms in place to make broomstick rides much faster and much more comfortable (and splinter-free!). These charms can wear off over time, so it is necessary to have them checked. As a general rule, all charms on your broomstick should be inspected every three to five years.

Cushioning Charm

Riding broomsticks became popular after the invention on the Cushioning Charm by Elliot Smethwyck in 1820. The Cushioning Charm creates a soft surface for sitting, as if an invisible cushion is on the broomstick. It is quite obvious when this charm is starting to wear off, since it is no longer comfortable to sit on the broomstick (and the possibility of splinters increases). The Cushioning Charm is easy to cast; the incantation is ***Spongify***. There is no harm in recasting the Cushioning Charm before every broomstick ride, especially before long journeys or a competitive Quidditch game.

Braking Charm

Basil Horton and Randolph Keitch of the Comet Trading Company were the first to patent the Braking Charm. Sometimes, it is known as the Horton-Keitch Braking Charm. Other companies have created their own charms now.

Brakes are extremely important for changing direction and avoiding other objects in the air. This charm must be checked every three years. It is important that you bring your broomstick into a Broomstick Shop to get your Braking Charm inspected. Each broomstick maker has a slightly different Braking Charm.

Speed Charms

Far from the original one-speed broomstick, your broomstick comes with many speeds. Once again, the speeds depend on the broomstick manufacturer. You do not want to be stuck with only one speed, so be sure to check your speed charms every five years. If you use one speed more often than the others, you may want to check that one more frequently.

Chapter 6: Acceleration De-acceleration

Brooms tend to lose acceleration speed after five years. Fortunately, this problem can be resolved in the newer models.; 1977 Lightning Chasers through to the 2002 Firebolts.

It's through repetitive use that brooms eventually lose speed and slow down. However, there is a way to reverse it. The broom model doesn't affect the incantation for this spell. There are two areas of your broomstick that must be tested and recorded before you can begin.

1. Time acceleration speed from 0 to 30 KPH.
2. Time a distance of one hundred yards at a speed of 25 KPH

Now, with those two stats in hand, look up the times that you should have for those two tests. Add the difference between each time; for example, if test one time was ten seconds and should have been five, then your difference is five seconds.

Do the same for test two. If the two tests add up to a difference of over ten seconds perform the first incantation. If fewer than ten seconds, perform the second one.

1. Grip your broom firmly by the handle, flip it upside down so that the tail end is sticking up. With your wand, brush the tip against the ends of the tail and say the following incantation. Incantation: ***Trickalus Fleureum***.

2. Perform the incantation exactly as if completely number one. Only the incantation will be different. Incantation: ***Burrundulus Dauren***.

Chapter 7: Adjusting Polarities

Last time you went on a long trip did you find yourself traveling in the wrong direction. It wasn't the compass' fault, but your broomsticks. After time, brooms have a tendency to lose control of their poles. What once was clearly north might now be southwest.

Adjusting polarities is actually quite simple and involves very little magic or instruction. The best way to adjust the polarity is to attach a working compass to the tail of your broom.

1. Place the broom in an area where it can be rotated 180º without hitting anything.
2. Without the compass on the end of the broom, tap the tip of the handle with your wand and say, ***Norde***.
3. The broom will orient itself to what it identifies as north.
4. Now attach the compass to the tail of the broom, rotate the broom until the compass is pointed north.
5. Tap the tip of the handle and say, ***Adjuste Norde***.
6. It is recommended that you repeat this process with each direction. The incantation for each is:

a. North = ***Norde***

b. South = ***Sude***

c. East = ***Oste***

d. West = ***Weste*** *(pronounced with a "V")*

Chapter 8: A Charm to Cure Reluctant Reversers

Does your broom back up several feet before moving forward? This problem can be quite a pesky one, whether you are running late for work or trying to play a Quidditch game. Starting out several feet behind everyone else can cause serious problems and delays.

This can be fixed however, and quite simply. First, grasp your broom firmly by the tail. Then, say the incantation: ***Accelero***. This will make your broomstick want to move forward. But because your broom is reversing first, that is what will happen. You must hold the tail strongly and not allow it to back up.

This charm may have to be repeated several times before the broom stops backing up. Once you have stopped the broom from reversing say the following incantation: ***Excepto Accelro***. From this point on, your broom will no longer reverse.

It is recommended that this charm be performed at least once every month. This will make the process much easier, compared to waiting six months.

If you are having problems with your broom besides those mentioned here, it is suggested that you go see your nearest licensed broomstick seller. They will no doubt be able to fix

your problem. Most problems are inexpensive. It is only when owners put no care in their brooms that serious problems, and expensive ones at that, arise.

Chapter 9: Re-Angling

Does your broom not turn as easily or quickly as it once did? The Nimbus series and the Firebolt each have the ability to make ninety-degree angle turns. As years pass, though, those angles can be cut to one hundred and fifteen degrees. This is quite a serious change and can be addressed following the procedure herein.

The problem lies in a short-circuiting of information starting at the top of the handle and ending at its base. Think of it this way. If you were to send electricity through your broomstick, it would start at the top and run down the handle and through each individual fiber of the tail. When brooms lose the ability to angle as precisely as they once did, there is a blockage, so to speak, in the flow of electricity.

1. To find the internal flaw the broomstick must be opened. This can be done without damaging the broom. First, lay the broom upon a flat surface, preferably a table. Then run the tip of your wand down the handle and say, ***Revelacio Interno***. This will allow you to see the inside of you broomstick.

2. Now look along the internal wall of the handle. You will see a tiny sliver of light flowing down the side of the

wall. Follow it until you find the break. It is at this break that your angling has been severed, or damaged. You must replace the silver lining. Not the entire piece, as that would take incredible skill. You are merely, say, bridging the gap or putting a band-aid on it.

3. Step back from the broom slightly and say, ***Flecarna Silvo***. From the tip of your wand you will see a small sliver of light form. You will this sliver of light over the area that has been damaged. If the piece is not long enough, repeat the spell until the light is running uncut along the inside of your broom.

4. Tap the handle of the wand again and say, ***Concellio Interno***. The broom will return to its original form and the angling probably resolved. It is suggested that you test the broom. If the problem still persists, advanced broom care will be necessary.

Chapter 10: Testing the Burglar Alarm

Only the newest broomstick models have an anti-burglary system installed. Many witches and wizards don't even activate the system. It is highly recommended that you do. For those who do so, we recommend testing of the alarm once a month.

Lay the broomstick upside down on a table or other flat surface. Near the base of the handle, you will notice a small marking. This marking usually appears as a small circle. With the tip of your wand, touch the marking on your broomstick. A series of beeps will arise and the marking will glow.

If the marking glows a red color it means that the alarm is working properly. However, if it glows a black color, the alarm is faulty. Fixing the alarm is simple enough.

Once again place the tip of your wand on the marking. Slowly raise your wand in a vertical direction and a thin black line should rise with you. Stop about one foot above the broomstick. It is important that you do not raise your wand too high or you will break the alarm completely. Say the incantation, ***Href***. You will now be able to move your wand, while keeping the black chord in a vertical position.

It is this chord that needs to be fixed. One method is to replace the chord. They are inexpensive and can be found in nearly every broomstick shop. The other method is an incantation.

Notice at the top of the handle that there is another marking similar to the alarm system. Touch that marking with your wand. A silver string should flow from that marking. With your wand, remove the silver string and twist it around the black chord. Have both ends meet at the tip of your wand. Say the following incantation: ***Variatios Vratumun***.

Chapter 11: Implosion Testing

Have your ever witnessed a broomstick explode while in mid air? It's not a pretty sight, and the rider usually ends up injured. There are ways to protect against broomstick implosion and there are ways to test for it.

Protecting your broomstick against implosion is rather simple. Basically, just use your common sense. Protect your broomstick against inclement weather with these basic charms:

1. **Reflectario**: This charm will place a magical waterproof finish around your broom, so as to reflect water and snow.

2. ***Phaerae***: This is a warming charm for broomsticks. Cold weather can severely damage the core of any broom. Use this charm to keep the broom within acceptable levels.

If you use these charms regularly, it will not be necessary for you to check implosion levels in your broom for up to six months. Those who do not use the charms should test their broom monthly. The test is as follows.

1. Lay broom on smooth surface.

2. Say the following incantation: ***Revelacio Interno***. You will now see the inside of your broomstick.

3. Running down the center of the broom there will be a red wire. It is this wire that reflects the implosion status of a broom.

4. If the red wire is thin, then your broom is in excellent condition.

5. If the red wire is thick, you need to take your broomstick to a licensed professional. Repairing implosion levels is extremely dangerous and only licensed wizards and witches are allowed to do so.

6. To close your broom say the incantation: ***Concellio Interno***

Chapter 12: Bucking

Broomsticks have a tendency after a while to buck their owners. It's not a pretty sight when a rider gets thrown off their broom at a height of fifty feet. Why do broomsticks buck? Think of a broom as a person. If you don't take care of them properly then they will break down.

Protecting against bucking can be prevented by proper maintenance, following the recommendations of this handbook. But, bucking does happen at times, despite regular care. So, if you find yourself being thrown regularly from your broom perform the following charm.

1. Allow your broom to hover several feet above the ground.
2. Say the incantation: ***Tribulus Deredo***.
3. If your broom is bucking, it will begin to tremble at these words. The severity of the bucking problem will be reflected in the ferocity of the trembling. *The broom will most likely be difficult to control during the rest of this process.
4. Grip the handle of your broom tightly and hold your wand above it.
5. In a wave-like motion, bring your wand from the top of the handle to the base.
6. While doing so, say the incantation: ***Stretariosum***.

7. Repeat this process until the broom has stopped trembling and then say the incantation: ***Stretariosum Finit***.

Chapter 13: Vibrations

Many wizards and witches express discontent over the fact that their broom is vibrating uncontrollably. This is primarily a problem with older brooms, though on occasion and after time, newer models can experience the same problems.

The incantation necessary to adjust vibration controls is different for each broom as is the method. Listed below is each broom and the proper way to adjust vibration. Please follow the instructions exactly as they are written. Note: While some of these brooms may no longer be in existence, we will still report on the proper way to care for them. The following charm can only return the broomstick back to its original state. Please note that brooms cannot be advanced past their original capabilities. Doing so would result in the destruction of the broom.

1. The 1579 Moon Racer: Two wands are needed to adjust vibration for the Moon Racer. Both wands must touch the tip of the handle, as their owners repeat the following incantation three times simultaneously. Incantation: ***Flareaus Harem***.

2. The 1962 Hair Trigger: As with the 1579 Moon Racer, two wands are need for vibration adjustment. However, with the Hair Trigger, one wand touches the tip of the broom and the other wand touches the base of the handle, just above the tail. The following incantation is

repeated three times simultaneously. Incantation: ***Caprishus Gartone***.

3. The 1870 Astral Surfer: Adjustment has been reduced to the use of one wand. Owner must place himself on the broom and hover five feet above the ground for adjustment. While on the broom, the owner may place the tip of his wand anywhere along the handle and say the following incantation. Incantation: ***Treconius Tratum***.

4. The 1977 Lightning Chaser: Allow broom to hover a few feet off the ground in front of you. Place the tip of the wand upon the seating area and say the following incantation. Incantation: ***Gregario Dormus***.

5. The 1988 Shooting Star: Hover the broomstick five feet above the ground in front of you. Place the tip of the wand at the tip of the handle and run it slowly down the top of the handle to its base. At the base, do not remove the wand and say the following incantation: ***Reparatium Olerus***.

6. The following incantation method will work on the 1994 Cleansweep, the 1996 Comet 260, the Nimbus 2000, the Nimbus 2001, and the Firebolt. Please note that it is highly unlikely that either the Nimbus series or the Firebolt will be in need of vibration adjustment.

Allow the broomstick to hover at waist level. Placing the tip of the wand at the base of the handle, repeat the following incantation. Incantation: ***Adjustum Vibro***.